

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-25 are pending in the application, Claim 8 is withdrawn, and Claims 1-7 and 9-25 are rejected. By this amendment, Claims 1, 10, 17 and 21 have been amended, Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-17 and 19-25 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-25 are subject to an election/restriction requirement. The Office asserts that claims 1-6 and 9-25 are generic and that Claims 7 and 8 are drawn to mutually exclusive species. The Applicant elects Claims 1-7 and 9-25 without traverse. Therefore, by this amendment, Claim 8 has been withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,758 to Gaalaas and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071132 to Sundqvist. **Claim 10**, as amended, recites “**determining** if an associated set of audio processing modules utilize a common clock source **from a global unique identifier**

received from each of said plurality of audio processing modules.” In contrast, Sundqvist specifically discloses that “the control module 401 **continuously performs measurements** to estimate the sample rate at which the analog-to-digital converter 302 operates, i.e. the sample rate of the first stream S32 of digital speech sample” (para. [0041]). Gaalaas, specifically discloses that “the sample rate of the serial audio data stream input can be changed from Fs1 to Fs2 by sample rate converter 202 or be left unchanged depending on the data path which is **selectable by the user**” (col. 6, lines 3-6). Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claim 10 is patentable over Gaalaas in view of Sundqvist. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the obviousness rejection of Claim 10 be withdrawn and that Claim 10 be allowed.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,758 to Gaalaas, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071132 to Sundqvist and U.S. Patent No. 6,005,901 to Linz.

Independent **Claim 1**, as amended, recites “a clock manager communicatively coupled to said first and second audio processing modules, for **determining** a first clock source of said first audio processing module **from an identifier of said first clock source** received from said first audio processing module, for **determining** a second clock source of said second audio processing module **from an identifier of said second clock source** received from said second audio processing module, and for configuring said first and second audio processing modules and a sample rate converter as a function of said first clock source and said second clock source.”

Independent **Claim 17**, as amended, recites “**determining** a clock source of each audio processing module of an associated set of audio processing modules **from an identifier of said clock source** received from each audio processing module.”

Independent **Claim 21**, as amended, recites “a clock manager communicatively coupled to said plurality of audio processing modules, said sample rate converter and said buffer, for determining if said plurality of audio processing modules utilize a common clock source from an identifier received from each of said plurality of audio processing modules.”

In contrast, Sundqvist specifically discloses that “the control module 401 **continuously performs measurements** to estimate the sample rate at which the analog-to-digital converter 302 operates, i.e. the sample rate of the first stream S32 of digital speech sample” (para. [0041]). Similarly, Linz specifically discloses “...a current capacity signal generated by the output buffer circuit and indicative of current use of the set of data storage registers; [and] a ratio estimation circuit arranged to respond to the current capacity signal **and providing an estimate of the actual ratio between the first rate and the second rate...**” (col. 2, lines 14-20; see also col. 2 lines 30-36, col. 4, lines 4-36). Gaalaas, specifically discloses that “the sample rate of the serial audio data stream input can be changed from Fs1 to Fs2 by sample rate converter 202 or be left unchanged depending on the data path which is **selectable by the user**” (col. 6, lines 3-6).

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent Claim 1, 17 and 21 are patentable over Gaalaas in view of Sundqvist and Linz. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the

obviousness rejection of Claims 1, 17 and 21 be withdrawn and that Claims 1, 17 and 21 be allowed.

Claims 2-7, 9, 20 and 22-25 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claims 1, 17 and 21, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection of Claims 2-7, 9, 20 and 22-25 be withdrawn and that Claims 2-7, 9, 20 and 22-25 be allowed.

For each of the reasons set forth above, Applicant also respectfully submits that **Claims 11-16** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on base Claim 10, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection of Claims 11-16 be withdrawn and that Claims 11-16 be allowed.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

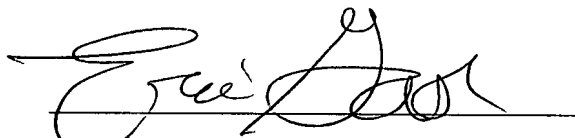
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 504160. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that

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extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 504160.

Respectfully submitted,
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